With the release of ***Mass Effect: Legendary Edition***, perhaps you are looking for guidance over when to do certain missions, and what squadmates to bring with you for the shuttle ride ahead. I recommend a "blind playthrough" for your first time, so this is mostly for those looking for new ideas.

In this spirit, I hope the following guide is of use to you! Naturally this is all very subjective (no two playthroughs are ever the same!) so please feel free to suggest to the community your own ideas and alternate takes (going to Therum after Virmire never gets old!).

When picking squadmates I mostly prioritized the quantity of banter, as well as its thematic relevance (e.g. bringing Liara to Noveria). As for the order of missions, those mostly follow a cadence that allows all squadmates equal or quasi-equal opportunities to star in a major setpiece. Naturally, lots of it is subjective and might look arbitrary, but you can always tweak it to your liking.

## MASS EFFECT

**Major Appearances**
Kaidan: 5-7
Ashley: 5-7
Wrex: 5
Garrus: 5
Tali: 5
Liara: 5

- **Prologue: Find the Beacon:** Jenkins & Kaidan -> Kaidan & Ashley
- **Citadel: Expose Saren/Urdnot Wrex/Garrus/The Shadow Broker:** Kaidan & Ashley (until Wrex is recruited) -> Ashley & Wrex (until Garrus is recruited) -> Kaidan & Garrus (until Tali is recruited) -> Garrus & Tali.
- **Find Liara T'Soni:** Wrex & Ashley
- **Feros: Geth Attack/The Thorian:** Liara & Tali
- **Noveria: Geth Interest/Matriach Benezia:** Wrex & Liara
- **UNC: Rogue VI:** Garrus & Wrex
- **Citadel: Old Friends/I Remember Me/Old, Unhappy, Far-Off Things:** N/A
- **UNC: Colony of the Dead:** Tali & Kaidan
- **UNC: Listening Post Alpha/Listening Post Theta/Depot Sigma-23:** Ashley/Kaidan & Liara (1)
- **UNC: Missing Marines/Cerberus/Hades' Dogs:** Garrus & Tali
- **UNC: Dead Scientists/Espionage Probe/Major Kyle:** N/A
- **Garrus: Find Dr. Saleon:** Garrus & Tali
- **Wrex: Family Armor:** Wrex & Kaidan
- **UNC: Geth Incursions/Tali and the Geth:** Tali & Ashley
- **X57: Bring Down the Sky:** Ashley & Kaidan
  **---COMPLETE REMAINING ASSIGNMENTS---** (2)
- **Virmire:** N/A
- **Virmire: Saren's Plan/Assault:** Garrus & Liara
- **Ilos: Find the Conduit/Trench Run/Race Against Time:** Ashley/Kaidan & Liara

Notes:
(1) Pick whoever is the designated Virmire Survivor.

(2) This is a point of no return. You should complete all side missions as they come, but in case you didn't finish any this is the final time to do so.

## MASS EFFECT 2

**Major Appearances**
Miranda: 5
Jacob: 5
Zaeed: 5
Kasumi: 5
Mordin: 5
Garrus: 5
Jack: 5
Grunt: 5
Samara/Morinth: 5
Thane: 5
Tali: 5
Legion: 3

- **Prologue: Save Joker:** N/A
- **Prologue: Awakening:** Wilson & Jacob
- **Freedom's Progress:** Miranda & Jacob
- **Normandy Crash Site:** N/A
- **Dossier: The Veteran:** N/A
- **Dossier: The Professor:** Miranda & Zaeed
- **Dossier: Archangel:** Zaeed & Mordin
- **Dossier: The Master Thief:** N/A
- **Citadel: The Council:** Garrus & Jacob
- **Project Firewalker: Rosalie Lost:** N/A
- **Overlord:** Zaeed & Kasumi
- **Dossier: The Warlord:** Kasumi & Mordin
- **Dossier: The Convict:** Grunt & Miranda
- **Stop the Collectors: Horizon:** Garrus & Mordin (1)
- **Arrival:** Kenson (2)
- **Dossier: Tali:** Kasumi & Grunt
- **Dossier: The Justicar:** Garrus & Jack
- **Dossier: The Assassin:** Grunt & Jack
- **Lair of the Shadow Broker:** Zaeed & Samara (until skycar chase) -> Liara & Samara (until Shadow Broker Base) -> Liara & Zaeed
- **Stop the Collectors: Collector Ship:** Samara & Thane (3)
- **Miranda: The Prodigal:** Miranda & Jack
- **Kasumi: Stolen Memory:** Kasumi
- **Grunt: Rite of Passage:** Grunt & Tali
- **Mordin: Old Blood:** Mordin & Kasumi
- **Samara: The Ardat-Yakshi:** N/A
- **Jack: Subject Zero:** Jack & Mordin
- **Jacob: The Gift of Greatness:** Jacob & Thane
- **Zaeed: The Price of Revenge:** Zaeed & Samara/Morinth
- **Garrus: Eye for an Eye:** Garrus & Samara/Morinth

- **Thane: Sins of the Father:** Thane & Tali
  **---COMPLETE REMAINING ASSIGNMENTS---** (4)
- **Reaper IFF:** Tali & Thane (5)
- **Await IFF Installation:** N/A (6)
- **Tali: Treason:** Tali & Legion
- **Legion: A House Divided:** Legion & Tali
- **Stop the Collectors: Use Omega-4 Relay/The Normandy Attacked:** Grunt & Thane
- **Stop the Collectors: Infiltration:** Jack & Jacob
- **Stop the Collectors: The Long Walk:** Samara/Morinth & Legion
- **Stop the Collectors: Final Battle:** Miranda & Zaeed (7)

Notes:
(1) The Horizon mission will trigger (and force you to complete it) after Mordin has been recruited and three dossier missions have been completed.
(2) The 'Arrival' DLC can be reasonably completed either shortly after it is given to you or as the very last mission in ME2.
(3) The Collector Ship mission will trigger (and force you to complete it) after five missions or so. Complete N7 assignments if it still doesn't trigger.
(4) This is a "point of no return", narratively speaking - you *can* continue playing after the end though. You should complete side missions as they come, but in case you didn't finish any this is the final time to do so - with a notable exception listed below.
(5) The Reaper IFF mission, once completed, will start a hidden timer that takes a few missions to fully activate, after which you should immediately do the Suicide Mission; before full activation you can do one mission per dossier or loyalty mission left, up to a maximum of four. That said, be careful if you plan on romancing Tali - it's safer to complete her loyalty mission before the Reaper IFF so you can be sure to have her romance scene.
(6) To unlock all of Legion's conversations, talk to it immediately after activation and Tali's loyalty mission. Also leave a few N7 assignments to complete after the Suicide Mission - preferably those without any connection to Cerberus (suggestions are: Abandoned Mine; Anomalous Weather Detected; Imminent Ship Crash; Quarian Crash Site).
(7) Tech Specialist: Tali, 1st Team Leader: Garrus, Biotic Specialist: Jack, 2nd Team Leader: Miranda, Escort: Mordin.

## MASS EFFECT 3

**Major Appearances**
Ashley/Kaidan: 8
Liara: 8
James: 6
Garrus: 8
Javik: 8
Tali: 8
EDI: 6

- **Prologue: Earth:** Anderson
- **Priority: Mars:** Ashley/Kaidan & James -> Ashley/Kaidan & Liara
- **Priority: The Citadel I:** N/A
- **Priority: Palaven:** James & Liara -> James & Garrus
- **Priority: Eden Prime:** Liara & EDI

- **Priority: Sur'Kesh:** Garrus & Liara
- **Grissom Academy: Emergency Evacuation:** Garrus & EDI
- **Citadel: Hanar Diplomat:** N/A
- **Attican Traverse: Krogan Team/The Rachni:** Javik & Garrus
- **Priority: Tuchanka:** Javik & Liara (1)
- **Priority: The Citadel II:** Javik & Garrus
- **Citadel: Volus Ambassador:** N/A
- **Omega: Aria T'Loak:** Aria & Nyreen
- **Priority: Perseus Veil:** N/A
- **Priority: Geth Dreadnought:** Tali & EDI
- **Rannoch: Admiral Korris:** Tali & Ashley/Kaidan
- **Rannoch: Geth Fighter Squadrons:** Tali & James
- **Priority: Rannoch:** Tali & Javik
- **Arrae: Ex-Cerberus Scientists:** Tali & Garrus
- **Kallini: Ardat-Yakshi Monastery:** Tali & Garrus
- **Tuchanka: Turian Platoon:** Ashley/Kaidan & James
- **Tuchanka: Bomb:** Tali & Liara
- **Mahavid: Leviathan:** EDI & Ashley/Kaidan (2)
- **Namakli: Leviathan:** James & Liara
- **Despoina: Leviathan:** Ashley/Kaidan & Tali (2)
- **Priority: The Citadel III:** N/A
- **Priority: Thessia:** Liara & Javik
- **Priority: Horizon:** Ashley/Kaidan & Javik
- **Citadel: Shore Leave:** N/A (3)
- **Silver Coast Casino: Infiltration:** Wrex & Javik (2)
- **Citadel Archives: Escape:** Wrex & EDI
- **Citadel Docks: Retake the Normandy:** Wrex & Ashley/Kaidan
- **Citadel: Party:** N/A
  **---COMPLETE REMAINING ASSIGNMENTS---** (4)
- **Priority: Cerberus Headquarters:** EDI & Javik
- **Priority: Earth:** Ashley/Kaidan & James (upon meeting Anderson) -> Garrus & Tali (2)

Notes:
(1) Several side missions will no longer be available after this mission is completed. Be sure to clear your Journal by then, just in case.
(2) Bring your Love Interest to these missions for extra unique dialogue.
(3) The 'Citadel' DLC can be reasonably completed either immediately before the final assault or as a post-game epilogue/flashback in ME3.
(4) This is a "point of no return" - the game will reload the last save before it when the game ends. You should complete all side missions as they come, but in case you didn't finish any this is the final time to do so.